IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An image pick-up unit comprising:

an image pick-up device; and

a plurality of optical filters which are cemented together ~~in layers~~ to comprise a layered structure and positioned in front of said image pick-up device, at least one of said optical filters having different optical properties and a different shape than at least one other of said optical filters

~~wherein at least two optical filters among said plurality of optical filters, which have different optical properties, are different in shape from each other~~.

2. (Previously Presented) The image pick-up unit according to claim 1, wherein each optical filter of said plurality of optical filters is asymmetrical with respect to a center of said each optical filter.

3. (Currently Amended) The image pick-up unit according to claim 1, wherein outer shapes of said plurality of optical filters ~~are formed so that general outer shapes thereof~~ are geometrically similar to each other, ~~wherein~~ each optical filter of said plurality of optical filters has at least four chamfered corners, and, on each of said optical filters, at least one of said chamfered corners is chamfered by an amount different than the other

chamfered corners of the optical filter ~~each of which is cut out by a predetermined amount, and wherein each of said plurality of optical filters is formed so that at least one of said four corners is cut out by an amount different from an amount cutout of each of remaining corners of said four corners~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The image pick-up unit according to claim 3, wherein outer dimensions of said plurality of optical filters ~~are formed so that general outer dimensions thereof~~ are the same.

5. (Currently Amended) The image pick-up unit according to claim 1, wherein outer shapes of said plurality of optical filters ~~are formed so that general outer shapes thereof~~ are geometrically similar to each other, ~~wherein~~ each optical filter of said plurality of optical filters has at least four chamfered corners, and on some, and less than all of said optical filters, at least one of said chamfered corners is chamfered by an amount different than the other chamfered corners of the optical filter ~~each of which is cut out by a predetermined amount, and wherein each of said plurality of optical filters except for at least one thereof is formed so that at least one of said four corners is cut out by an amount different from an amount cutout of each of remaining corners of said four corners~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The image pick-up unit according to claim 5, wherein outer dimensions of said plurality of optical filters ~~are formed so that general outer dimensions thereof~~ are the same.

7. (Currently Amended) The image pick-up unit according to claim 1, wherein outer

shapes of said plurality of optical filters ~~are formed so that general outer shapes thereof~~ are geometrically similar to each other, and

~~wherein~~ an outer edge of each of said plurality of optical filters comprises one of a projection and a recess ~~on an outer edge of said each optical filter~~ which does not overlap an outer edge of another optical filter of said plurality of optical filters when said plurality of optical filters are cemented together ~~in layers~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The image pick-up unit according to claim 7, wherein outer dimensions of said plurality of optical filters ~~are formed so that general outer dimensions thereof~~ are the same.

9. (Currently Amended) The image pick-up unit according to claim 1, wherein outer shapes of said plurality of optical filters ~~are formed so that general outer shapes thereof~~ are geometrically similar to each other, and

~~wherein~~ an outer edge of some, and less than all ~~each~~ of said plurality of optical filters ~~except for at least one thereof~~ includes one of a projection and a recess ~~on an outer edge of said each optical filter~~ which does not overlap another optical filter of said plurality of optical filters when said plurality of optical filters are cemented together ~~in layers~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The image pick-up unit according to claim 9, wherein outer dimensions of said plurality of optical filters ~~are formed so that general outer dimensions thereof~~ are the same.

11. (Currently Amended) The image pick-up unit according to claim 1, wherein an

optical filter of said plurality of optical filters which is positioned closest to said image pick-up device comprises an infrared cut-off glass ~~serving as~~ comprising a cover glass ~~for covering~~ that covers the front of said image pick-up device to seal said image pick-up device, and wherein each optical filter of said plurality of optical ~~filter except for~~ filters other than said infrared cut-off glass comprises an optical low-pass filter.

12. (Currently Amended) The image pick-up unit according to claim 11, wherein a rear surface of one of said plurality of optical filters which is cemented to a front surface of said infrared cut-off glass is coated with an ~~optical~~ optically matched filter coating, and wherein at least one surface of the remaining surfaces of said plurality of optical filters is coated with an anti-reflection coating.

13. (Currently Amended) The image pick-up unit according to claim 11, wherein the length and width of each optical filter of said plurality of optical filters, ~~except for~~ other than said infrared cut-off glass, are one of equal to and less than the length and width of said infrared cut-off glass, respectively.

14. (Currently Amended) The image pick-up unit according to claim 11, wherein a thickness of each optical filter of said plurality of optical filters, ~~except for~~ other than said infrared cut-off glass, is one of equal to and less than approximately 0.3mm, and ~~wherein outer dimensions of said plurality of optical filters, except for said infrared cut-off glass, decrease stepwise in a direction from said infrared cut-off glass toward a side from which incoming light is incident on said image pick-up device~~ for each optical filter,

the outer dimensions of said optical filter is less than the outer dimensions of every other optical filter in closer proximity to the infrared cut-off glass.

15. (Currently Amended) The image pick-up unit according to claim 11, wherein each optical filter of said plurality of optical filters ~~is made of one of the following birefringent glass materials:~~ is a birefringent glass comprising one of quartz, lithium niobate and lithium tri-borate.

16. (Currently Amended) The image pick-up unit according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of optical filters, which are cemented together ~~in layers~~, are cemented to said image pick-up device.

17. (Currently Amended) The image pick-up unit according to claim 1, wherein each optical filter of said plurality of optical filters is substantially rectangular in shape, each ~~of four corners~~ corner of said each optical filter being chamfered.

18. (Currently Amended) An image pick-up unit comprising:

an image pick-up device; and

a plurality of optical filters which are ~~made of cemented layers of optical material~~ cemented together to comprise a layered structure, and positioned immediately in front of said image pick-up device,

wherein the length and width of at least one optical filter of said plurality of optical filters ~~are~~ is different from the length and width of another optical filter of said plurality of optical filters.

19. (New) An image pick-up unit comprising:

an image pick-up device; and

a plurality of optical filters positioned in front of said image pick-up device, each optical filter comprising a plurality of corners chamfered by different amounts.